

VZCZCXRO2011
RR RUEHBC RUEHDA RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK
DE RUEHGB #0433 0391517
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 081517Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9510
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 000433

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [PKPA](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [IZ](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: Iraqi Kurdistan Region Media Summary --
February 7, 2007

11. (U) This is a Regional Reconstruction Team (RRT) cable.

Continuing Reaction to Article 140 Committee Resolutions

12. (U) Kurdish press was dominated today by continued reactions from across the region on two resolutions of the Higher Committee for the Implementation of Article 140 that were issued on February 14. Committee Resolutions #3 and #4 call for the relocation of "Arabs of Arabization" in Kirkuk back to their original homeland, beginning on March 15. They call for the cancellation of their title to land in Kirkuk, a payment of 20 million Iraqi Dinar per family, and a promise of land and jobs in their new homes.

13. (U) Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)-run media, including Khabat newspaper, covered a press conference by Kurdistan National Assembly Speaker Kamal Karkuki (KDP member) who announced that 7,000 "Arabs of Arabization" had already registered with the Committee for relocation and were prepared to leave Kirkuk.

14. (U) Major Kurdish newspapers covered a joint statement by five Kurdish-Turkmen parties that called for an implementation of Article 140 and the return of Kirkuk to Kurdistan Regional Government administration. The statement was issued by the Rafah Party, the Shuroq Party, the Brayati Party, the Turkmen Democratic Party, and the Party Gali Turkmen. The statement showed the support of the Turkmen to the Kurdistan Region and described the deep social and historical relationship between the Turkmen and Kurdish people.

15. (U) Kurdistan National Assembly Speaker Adnan al-Mufti (PUK member) issued a statement welcoming the sentiments of the Turkmen parties. The statement said, "Kurdish leaders and the KNA support the Turkmen request and when Kirkuk returns to the Kurdistan Region, the Turkmen will be the second nation of Kurdistan."

16. (U) KDP-run Khabat newspaper published highlights of an interview with Wail Abdullatif, a member of al-Iraqia faction in the Iraqi National Assembly, with Sawt al-Iraq radio. Abdullatif says "It is too early to implement Resolutions 3 and 4 of the Article 140 Committee."

17. (U) Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) publications and broadcast media reported on a press conference in held with local members of various Kurdish political parties at the PUK branch building in the town of Khanaqin. At the press conference the head of the PUK branch said the gathering showed the unity of the Kurdish people in support of implementing Article 140.

Deputy PM and Tamim Governor Discuss Reconstruction Efforts

18. (U) PUKmedia.com and Kurdistan Nwe newspaper reported on a meeting between Iraqi Deputy Prime minister Barham Salih (PUK member) and the Tamim province Governor Abdurrahman Mustafa. Salih

talked about the central government's concern regarding reconstruction and infrastructure development in Kirkuk, saying the government would continue to support economic and social development in the province.

Ministries of Justice Merged Yesterday

¶9. (U) A ceremony was held yesterday to commemorate the merger of the Erbil and Sulaimaniyah justice ministries. Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani delivered a speech saying, "If we want to build a civil society that is independent, we should use justice in the right way." Faroq Jamil (PUK member) was will become the new KRG Minister of Justice. Azad Malafandi (KDP member) who had been the Minister of Justice Affairs for KDP-controlled Erbil and Dohuk provinces will become a KRG Minister without portfolio.

KRG President Massoud Barzani Meets with General Dempsey

¶10. (U) Khabat newspaper covered the meeting between Kurdistan Region President Massoud Barzani and Coalition Forces General Martin Dempsey in Salah al-Din yesterday. General Dempsey explained the U.S. plan for training the Iraqi Army.

¶11. (SBU) This media summary is prepared by Press and Cultural Specialist Tawar Rasheed.